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Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 25 October 2006 from the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of all Member States and observers of the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, and resolution 59/198 of 20 December 2004, as well as relevant resolutions of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights.

I also have the honour to refer to your letter of 5 October 2006, addressed to all permanent representatives and permanent observers to the United Nations, in which you called on Member States to complete the process for the formal adoption, during the main part of the sixty-first session, of the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee mandated with the task of completing the Convention.

As you are aware, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted the draft convention on 25 August 2006 and the draft Convention is now undergoing scrutiny by a drafting group of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Ad Hoc Committee is aiming to finalize its work in November, at a resumed meeting of its eighth session, when it will adopt the report of the drafting group. My expectation is that, in accordance with the objective set out in your letter, the Ad Hoc Committee will recommend adoption of the draft convention by the

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General Assembly during the main part of its current session, in early December. The exact timing of both meetings will depend partly on the speed with which it is possible to process and issue, in the official languages, the report of the drafting group and subsequently the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee, once it has received and adopted the report of the drafting group.

The meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, and subsequently the meeting of the General Assembly to formally adopt the Convention, will require the allocation of meeting time for this purpose. I should very much appreciate the assistance of your Office in facilitating this so that this important convention can be adopted by the Assembly during the main part of its sixty-first session.

Moreover, in view of the very tight scheduling that will be required to enable the adoption of the Convention during the main part of the session, I have the honour to request that item 67 of the agenda of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly also be considered by the plenary for the sole purpose of ensuring that the draft convention on the rights of persons with disabilities can be adopted in this timely manner.

(*Signed*) Don **MacKay**
Chair
Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral
International Convention on the Protection and Promotion
of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities